

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA: Pocatello, Idaho	
	REPORT FOR: MONTH: April YEAR: 2004	
	SIGNATURE: Sherrie Hebert (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area) DATE May 14, 2004	
TO: Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910		
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).		

X	An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.
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For the first time in months, every station in the Pocatello Hydrologic Service Area (HSA) reported precipitation. However, the mountain snowpack that was devastated in March due to record high temperatures had no recovery. With much of the mountain snowpack gone nearly a month earlier than normal, any chance for improvement in the five-year drought is gone.

Other Hydrologic Interests

Precipitation

Overall, April precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 87.3% of normal for all reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. The majority of Pocatello HSA stations received greater than 50% of normal April precipitation, with 15 reporting greater than 100%. Stanley and Howe reported the least percent of normal at 5.5% and 4.5%, respectively.

Pocatello's April precipitation was 76.3% of normal at 0.90 inches, reducing the 2004 Water Year precipitation 4.7 percentage points to 102.9% from 107.6% in March.

Mountain snowpack continued to diminish over the month, with much of the HSA completely melting out more than a month earlier than normal. Regarding the following regional sample, snow water equivalent dove 43 percentage points to 20% of normal from 63% in March and 83 points from February's near normal 103%. Precipitation had only a slight decrease from 85% of normal in March to 83% for April.

Basin	SWE % Avg		Precip % Avg Water Year 2004	
	Mar	Apr	Mar	Apr
Big Wood	60	27	79	77
Little Wood	47	19	85	83
Big Lost	59	11	83	80
Little Lost & Birch	65	11	80	76
Henrys Fork & Teton	78	48	87	84
Snake Basin Above Palisades	65	31	79	77
Willow, Blackfoot & Portneuf	54	1	90	86
Oakley	76	11	99	98
Average	63	20	85	83

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), May 14, 2004.

Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 52% of capacity, down 1% from April 8, 2004¹.

Reservoir	% Capacity Mar 31 ²	% Capacity Apr 30 ³	% of Average ³	% of Last Year ³
American Falls	75	70	78	88
Henry's Lake	79	81	84	97
Island Park	69	85	93	100
Little Wood	77	98	121	110
Mackay	53	58	75	108
Magic	25	40	51	132
Oakley	20	27	49	105
Palisades	43	51	82	94
Ririe	41	55	79	97
Lake Walcott	67 ⁴	100 ⁵	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), May 14, 2004; (2) NRCS, March 31, 2004; (3) NRCS, April 30, 2004; (4) BOR, April 8, 2004; (5) BOR, May 14, 2004.

Drought

Although many stations reported above-normal precipitation, the Pocatello HSA has developed such a large precip deficit, drought conditions across Eastern Idaho will not be improving this year. Eastern Idaho lost a lot of ground in the National Drought Monitor rankings, with all of the HSA in the D3, "Extreme", and D4, "Exceptional" ranks. Soil moisture, storage and long-term Climate Prediction Center outlooks indicating below-normal precipitation will continue to maintain and likely deteriorate the high rankings.

Current Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 include Caribou, Lincoln, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Custer and Lemhi counties. More counties are anticipated to be added as the spring and summer seasons progress.

Summary of Hydrologic Products Issued

No hydrologic products were issued for the month of March.

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